GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:995
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016
Internet Connectivity
Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide total internet connectivity in the country;

(b) if so, the details of plan formulated for rural areas State-wise including Chhattisgarh; and

(c) the funds released and spent by each of the States particularly Chhattisgarh for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was planned, in 2011, to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country, including Chhattishgarh, through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibres of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and RailTel and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. The project is being funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and initial estimated cost of the project is Rs. 20,100 Crores. The project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which has been incorporated on 25.02.2012 under Indian Companies Act 1956. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth has to be provided in all the estimated 2.5 lakh GPs for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers.

State-wise plan of GPs, including Chhattishgarh, to be covered under NOFN project is given in the Statement at Annexure-I.

As the project is being executed by single executing agency i.e. BBNL, funds to the tune of Rs. 4075.83 crore have been released to it.

Annexure-I
State-wise plan of Gram Panchayats (GPs) to be covered under NOFN project
<pre>
S.No. States/ UTs Total No. of Blocks No. of Blocks in Phase-I No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I
1. Jammu & Kashmir 143 22 624
2. Himachal Pradesh 78 6 283
3. Punjab 143 66 6128
4. Haryana 122 122 6090
5. Rajasthan 246 186 6967
6. Chandigarh 1 1 12
7. Uttarakhand 95 28 1767
8. UP (West) 238 128 8040
9. UP (East) 568 227 14474
10. Bihar 534 315 5202
11. West Bengal 341 273 2713
12. Sikkim 27 0 0
13. Assam 238 91 1013
14. Jharkhand 259 74 1388
15. Odisha 314 167 3388
16. Andaman & Nicobar 9 7 69
17. Arunachal Pradesh 155 26 256
18. Nagaland 51 36 743
19. Manipur 41 2 24
20. Meghalaya 28 15 638
21. Tripura 44 44 1021
22. Mizoram 26 6 163
23. Madhya Pradesh 313 140 10516
24. Chattishgarh 146 34 2110
25. Gujarat 223 93 5735
26. Maharashtra 352 169 12055
27. Daman & Diu 1 0 0

28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli 2 0 0
29. Karanataka 176 176 5599
30. Andhra Pradesh 609 0 0
31. Telengana 443 109 2097
32. Tamil Nadu 385 0 0
33. Kerala 152 152 977
34. Pudducherry 3 3 98
35. Lakshadweep 9 9 10
36. Goa* - - -
Grand Total 6515 2727 100200
</pre>
*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.
****